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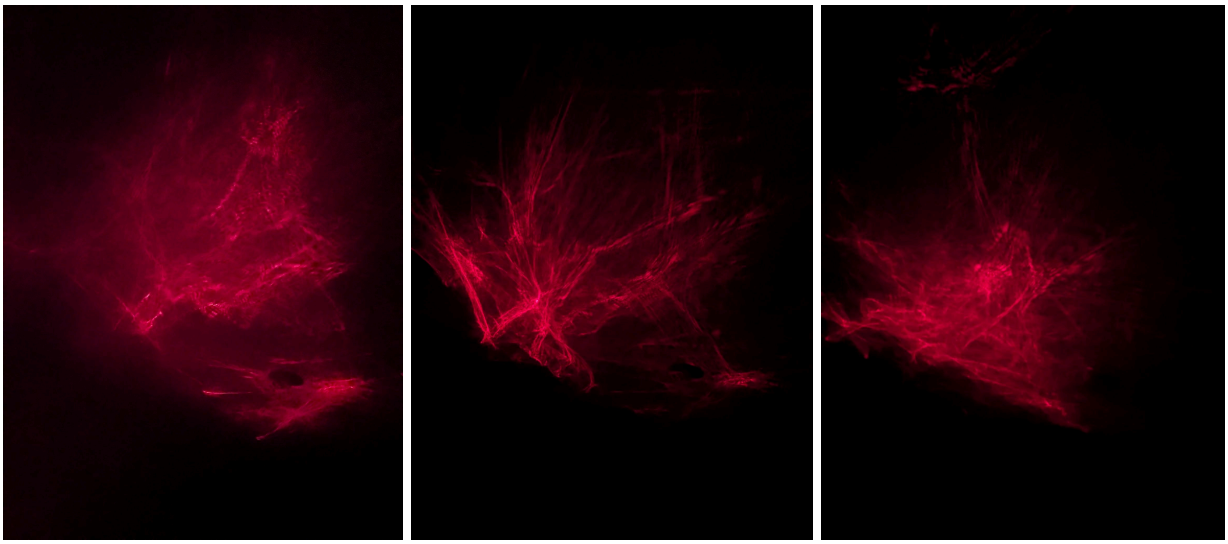
Sketches and Prototypes

Idea 1: laser + synth projection

My roommate Lukas and I did some planning and came up with a plan for how to connect everything. Previously I had some rough ideas but wasn't sure on the details, and now it is mostly sorted out. His synth is fully built and ready for performance–this will provide the sound input for the transducer which will vibrate the suspended space blanket, acting as a laser reflector and as a sound source. Once one iteration is complete we may add multiple for dimension and volume. We also did some testing with the laser and it worked great.



laser beam reflecting off space blanket onto ceiling

Additionally, we have talked about including other elements like fog, costumes, and other small DIY instruments to include, which would add some dimension to the piece, but we are leaving that open ended for now as we work through the preliminary stages of development. In the diagram below, the synth also outputs an analog signal which is used to adjust the voltage going into the laser, so that not only does the reflected light shift via the transducer vibrations on the space blanket, but also in brightness in correspondence with volume or frequency, which can be achieved very simply by putting different electrical components before the signal reaches the laser.

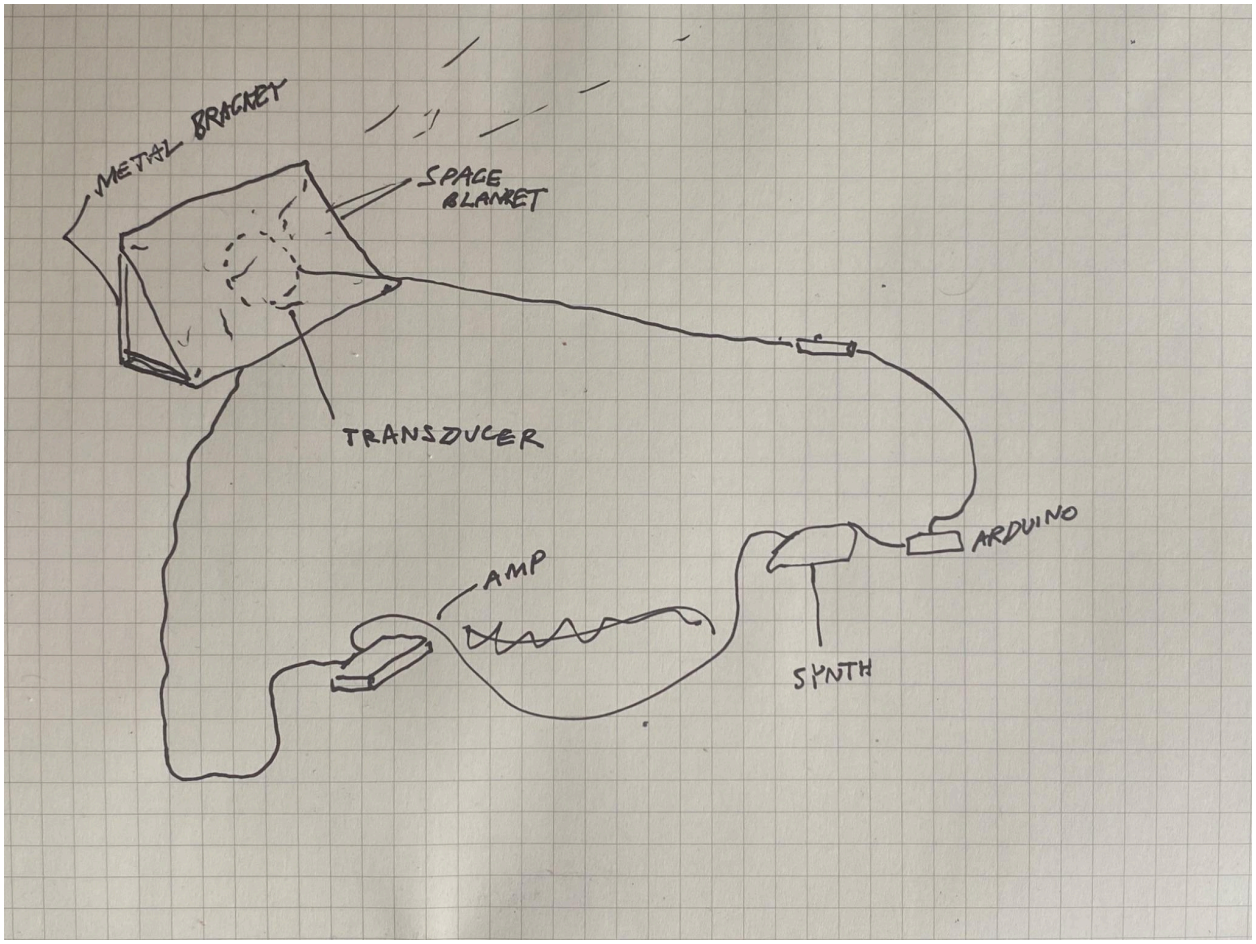
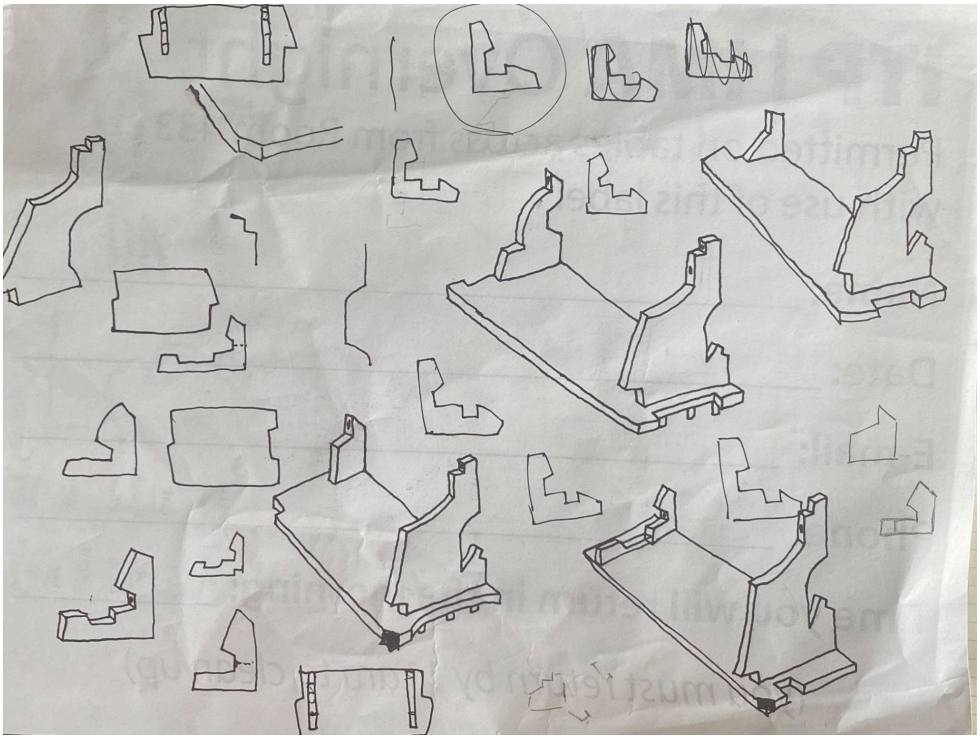


Diagram of performance setup

Idea 2: Furniture practice / development

The goal of this project was to engage in processes which inspire me, like the Shakers, or Dean Edmonds, while also integrating some of my own values, interests, aesthetics, etc. I started by looking at what was practical and necessary to build at home, which was a small shelf above the dining table for small items or books. This made sense in terms of feasibility given the tools and materials at hand. It started with a lot of sketches, which began with the most basic shelf one could make with a chopsaw and a bandsaw. From there the form could be developed, and I wanted to do so in a way that would add visual interest without "deception" as the Shakers might have put it. Some inspiration was taken from graffiti writers that I like–since my toolset and skillset confined me mostly to creating form through contours, I felt the approach graffiti takes towards thinking about form and contour, weight, physicality, etc. would offer some interesting substance. Much like Rococo furniture takes an underlying form and adds curves and bends wherever possible, I wanted to do something similar, in a way that would express some sort of a language. The idea is to jam as much idea into it as

possible without overwhelming the original form or taking away from the material itself. It has to still balance out and feel it was designed with modesty.



some shelf and bracket ideas

sketched out partially finished brackets (left two), completed bracket (right)